

May 14, 2012

The Honorable Barack Obama, President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

A little over a year ago, you launched the National Wireless Initiative (NWI) which contained a goal of expanding mobile broadband to make high-speed wireless services available to 98 percent of the population within five years. We commend you for initiating this effort and for taking the first steps towards meeting this goal with the enactment of language to authorize voluntary incentive auctions. Another necessary activity in meeting the goals of the NWI is to identify federal government spectrum that can be transitioned for licensed commercial use.

As your Administration has highlighted, the increasing demand for mobile data services is astounding. For example, mobile data traffic tripled in 2011. Forecasts project that the volume of data traffic on mobile service provider networks will increase 16 times from 2011 to 2016. The increment of growth in traffic from 2012 to 2013 is twice as large as all the traffic that was carried in 2011 on US mobile networks. By 2015 and 2016, the volume of growth is projected to be five times all of the traffic carried on US mobile networks in 2011. These numbers reinforce why the search for more spectrum is a time-sensitive priority.

While industry is continuing to develop and deploy increasingly efficient spectrum technologies, the fact remains there is a spectrum crunch that no amount of efficiencies will satisfy. If policymakers do not act in the short-term to clear additional spectrum for licensed mobile broadband use, our country's networks will become increasingly strained, and the U.S. hold on mobile broadband leadership will start to wane.

Passage of voluntary incentive auction legislation contained in the *Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act*, H.R. 3630 was a seminal moment which will yield benefits for consumers, the economy, and the high tech industry. This auction, at best, may yield less than a quarter of the 500 MHz you called for in your June 2010 executive Memorandum. The FCC has stated that it will not begin incentive auction rulemaking until the Fall, and the spectrum reclaimed through that process is unlikely to be placed into commercial use for some time. So, while some progress has been made to repurpose spectrum for commercially licensed mobile broadband use, not enough has been identified – especially from federal government spectrum bands.

What is needed is a commitment that identifies definitive bands and a specific implementable plan of action to provide regulatory certainty for investment. We urge policymakers to make progress on both fronts this year; industry is committed to do what we can to assist your Administration to reach these important decisions as promptly as possible.

So, in addition to addressing the spectrum crunch, fully implementing the NWI also will yield two other vitally important benefits: It will create new American jobs and stimulate capital spending. Two recent economic reports concluded that unleashing 300 MHz of spectrum for mobile broadband by 2016 would spur \$75 billion in new capital spending, create between 300,000 to 770,000

new jobs, and add \$230 billion in GDP. At a time when Americans are concerned about jobs, the economy, and U.S. competitiveness, the act of identifying and clearing more spectrum for licensed mobile broadband use offers a rare elixir for all three.

Our industries look forward to working with your Administration to address our near and long term spectrum needs and appreciate your continued leadership on this vitally important matter.

Sincerely,



Rhod Shaw
Executive Director
High Tech Spectrum Coalition



Dean C. Garfield
President and CEO
Information Technology Information Council



Steve Largent
President and CEO
CTIA – The Wireless Association



Grant Seiffert
President
Telecommunications Industry Association

cc: The Honorable Jeffrey Zients, Acting Director, Office of Management and Budget
The Honorable John P. Holdren, Director, Office of Science & Technology Policy
The Honorable Lawrence E. Strickling, Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information
The Honorable Julius Genachowski, Chairman, Federal Communications Commission